

Bill Cundiff

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Subject: turbine flaws

[Wind Watch: Promise from green jobs overstated, harms ignored](#)



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Opinions, Spain, U.S.

Promise from green jobs overstated, harms ignored

By Dr. Gabriel Calzada, dailycaller.com/ 5 September 2011

In 2009, I directed a study entitled “Study of the Effects on Employment of Public Aid to Renewable Energy Sources.” It focused on the Spanish government’s efforts to become the world leader in renewable energy by subsidizing selected energy sources favored by interest groups (and therefore politicians) but not private investors, unless politicians guaranteed their investments.

Its findings illuminated the failure of this policy to produce jobs, create a sustainable renewable energy industry or bring about a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (Spain remains wildly above its targets for the Kyoto Protocol). Further, the study showed that subsidizing renewable energy companies hurt the Spanish economy.

Since its release, our study has been the subject of extensive criticism by groups seeking to advance renewable energy in the United States. They contend that our peer-reviewed study is flawed because we used an opportunity-cost model — the same model used by private economists making decisions to allocate scarce resources. Some even cite a U.S. Department of Energy white paper claiming our study “represents a significant divergence from traditional methodologies used to estimate employment impacts from renewable energy.”

One inconvenient fact these critics neglect to mention is that according to Freedom of Information Act requests, the U.S. Department of Energy collaborated with the American Wind Energy Association and an ideological activist group in a coordinated effort to discredit the study. Much work went to discredit findings that were ultimately recognized by the Spanish government and still ring true, as evidenced by recent events like the closure of Solyndra’s last solar cell facility in the United States.

In short, despite aggressive efforts to discredit its findings, our study has been proven correct. Our only mistake was to underestimate the debt and economic harms that these policies produced in Spain, the country whose energy policies President Obama once praised.

However, instead of rehashing an old debate, I want to warn American policymakers not to go further down Spain’s path. The U.S. can learn from Spain’s costly example only by paying attention to it.

After thorough review, using two different research methods and data from both European Commission-financed research and the Spanish government, the trend is